LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Little Dunham Parish Council held on Thursday 5th November 2026, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

Present: Cllr Simon Fowler (Chair)
Cllr David Walker (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jane Harding
Cllr Alice Rossi
Cllr Nina Forsyth
Cllr Sarah Clark-Quick
Cllr Roy Macintyre

District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
County Cllr Tom Dickerson
Two Members of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Parish Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3rd September 2026.

Cllr Harding proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Forsyth and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation.

A member of the public queried who was responsible for a pile of garden waste/fallen wood near the entrance to the footpath on Barrows Hole Lane. Residents are concerned about waste being dumped. The Chairman confirmed the land belonged to the local farmer but Councillors will advise local residents that fly-tipping is not permitted.

A member of the public queried if they were permitted to speak to residents about a potential planning application and the Chairman confirmed that they were and that all applications are considered by the Council, as a statutory consultee.

5. County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Tom Dickerson reported:

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- Local Government Reorganisation, which had been recently cancelled, is now back on the table and a decision will be made in January as to whether it will go ahead or not.
- Grants are available from the County Council for help with heating oil.
- There are issues with Home to School transport in that, as fuel prices have increased, the coach companies cannot afford to run the service on the contracted prices; one company has already gone out of business. However, it is a statutory requirement for the county council to provide this service and talks continue.
- A query regarding drain cleaning on The Street/Barrows Hole Lane/Sporle Road was raised and the C/Cllr will ensure action is taken.

The Chairman thanked C/Cllr Dickerson, who then left the meeting.

D/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris reported that he had previously circulated a written report and Council members highlighted none of the issues. The D/Cllr also reported that The Droves Solar Farm Hearing has been completed with the outcome now awaited.

He also said that the Local Plan is now ready for submission, and it is hoped it will be approved. In respect of planning enforcement, the team are extremely busy and there are delays due to the volume of work.

The Chairman thanked D/Cllr Kiddle-Morris, who then left the meeting.

6. To consider Highway and Footpath matters.

a) Matters previously reported to Highways and any new issues:

Council noted the following updates:

- The Barrows Hole Lane street sign was replaced badly and has now been resolved.
- The Street sign, nr bus shelter, was missing and has now been replaced.
- Missing SLOW prior to the old railway bridge – heading towards Lt Dunham on Station Road – Highways has been chased up and works are programmed.
- The wobbly white line on Necton Road was reported to Highways as an example of poor workmanship and the contractors have been asked to make good.
- Raised drain on The Street – reported to Highways and works programmed.

Cllr Forsyth continues to report issues as they arise.

b) To receive an update regarding Footpath and Trails Cutting.

The Chairman reported that all is in good order and an invoice for payment of £720.43 will be submitted.

c) To consider an application to the Parish Partnership Scheme.

No suggestions were put forward for an application.

7. To receive an update regarding the proposed solar farms: Great Dunham, The Droves & High Grove, and any related matters.

The Chairman reported on the extremely large data centre/solar farm proposed near to Barton Bendish but Cllr Macintyre said that the Ministry of Defence are likely to object.

The Great Dunham site continues to wait for a grid connection, the outcome of The Droves hearing is awaited and there is no start date for High Grove.

8. To consider Planning matters.

a) Applications to consider.
There were no applications to consider.

b) To note any planning decisions.
Council noted the following appeal has been dismissed.

- Appeal Notice 6009588 - ASHBRIDGE HOUSE, 47 Necton Road, Little Dunham – proposed 1 No dwelling with rear first floor Juliet balcony and associated garage.

c) To receive an update regarding enforcement matters.
Council noted the action being taken on the local issue and agreed to wait for a further update.

d) To receive an update regarding the Breckland Local Plan.
This matter had been discussed at item 5 above.

e) To receive an update regarding proposed Tree Protection Orders.
The Chairman reported that the Breckland Tree Officer has visited the village and will make a report, with recommendations, for the Planning Committee.

9. To receive a report regarding the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field and Play Area.

Cllr Macintyre reported that all was in good order at the play area. He had met with a resident on the emergency access, who confirmed they will clear the access and maintain the border.

Golf balls have been found on the field and this will be monitored to see if any action is required.

The foliage on Charles Way will be cut back and it was agreed that an adjoining fence, which is starting to lean, is the responsibility of the householder.

10. To receive a report regarding the Amenities (Conservation) area; to appoint a Warden and to consider quotes for a tree risk assessment survey.

Cllr Forsyth reported that all is in good order with some minimal management required. Cllr Fowler proposed approval of a tree risk assessment survey, at a cost of £390, this was seconded by Cllr Harding and unanimously agreed by Council. A warden will be appointed following the survey.

11. To receive a report regarding the Village Hut and Phone Box (and defibrillator).

Cllrs Walker and Clark-Quick reported that all is in good order.

12. To receive a report regarding the Necton Road land; to agree a name; and to appoint a Warden.

The Chairman reported that all is in good order, the grass has been cut by the contractor and five trees have been planted. Consideration was given to a name, with Breckland View being put forward as a suggestion. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting. Cllr Fowler was appointed as Warden.

13. To consider the grass cutting contract for 2027.

In the absence of the proposal, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

14. To consider any correspondence received.

Cllr Rossi reported that she had received an email from a local resident proposing that the Parish Council fund notices with QR codes directing delivery drivers to a map showing all properties in the village. Council agreed that this would be far too expensive and was an issue for the delivery firms, not the parish council.

15. Financial and Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2027.
Council noted the financial report (attached).

b) To consider funding equipment for the village litter pickers.
Cllr Fowler proposed that the parish council fund the purchase of a trolley and two hi-viz vests for the litter pickers, at a cost of £28, this was seconded by Cllr Rossi and unanimously agreed by Council.

The Chairman confirmed that the two litter pickers are working under their own volition and are not under the auspices of the parish council.

c) To consider the purchase of two replacement batteries for the SAM II sign.
Council agreed that the sign continued to be of value in the community. Cllr Fowler proposed approval of the purchase of two replacement batteries, at a cost of £155.95, this was seconded by Cllr Rossi and unanimously agreed by Council.

d) To consider an increase in Clerk's monthly hours due to an increase in workload.
Council considered a request from the Clerk to increase their monthly hours, from ten to 12, due to the increase in workload in recent years. Cllr Fowler proposed approval of the request, with hours increased to 11 from 1st January 2027, then to 12 with effect from the 1st April 2027, allowing them to be fully budgeted. This was seconded by Cllr Harding and unanimously agreed by Council.

e) To consider approval of the budget for the years ending 31st March 2028 and 2029 and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2028.

Council considered the draft budget for the years ending 31st March 2028 and 2029 and Cllr Macintyre proposed that it be accepted and the precept set at £7,978 to keep in line with rising costs, this was seconded by Cllr Rossi and unanimously agreed. This will result in an annual increase of £10.18 for a Band D property.

f) To authorise financial payments as detailed below and note any receipts.

Cllr Forsyth proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Macintyre and unanimously agreed by Council. The amendment and receipts were noted.

PAYMENTS		
P28	Land Registry – Necton Road plot	£45.00 (chq)
P29	Octopus Energy	£21.75 (DD)
P30	EON Electric (final bill)	£21.72
P31	Water Plus – September	£6.86 (SO)
P32	Clerk Salary & Allowance – October	£191.99 (SO)
	(includes back-dated salary increase – to 01/04/2026	
P32	HMRC PAYE	£45.60
P33	Octopus Energy	£30.93 (DD)
P34	Water Plus – October	£6.63 (SO)
P35	Clerk Salary & Allowance – November	£162.82 (SO)
P35	HMRC PAYE	£38.20
P36	SLCC Membership	£37.95
P37	Grass Contractors (4 of 4)	£740.16
AMENDMENT		
P24	October Energy	£87.26 – NOT TAKEN
RECEIPTS		
R11	Village Hut Fund	£22.00
R12	Village Hut Fund	£35.00
	Bank Interest	£24.07
R13	Breckland Precept (2 of 2)	£3,317.50

16. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

17. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th January 2027, at 7.30pm in the Village Hut.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed: Date:

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LITTLE DUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2027

Financial Report - NOVEMBER 2026

BUDGET UPDATE	Actual 2025/26	Budget 2026/27	To date	% Spend
PAYMENTS				
Admin	1,342	1,384	1,018.41	74%
Salary	2,164	2,310	1,528.13	66%
Village Hut	501	683	438.29	64%
Playing Field	88	140	91.00	65%
Open Spaces	115	200	0.00	0%
Grass Cutting	1,993	2,093	1,571.87	75%
Donations	200	200	0.00	0%
TOTAL	**6,403**	**7,010**	**4,647.70**	**66%**
RECEIPTS				**Received**
Precept	6,038	6,635	6,635.00	100%
Interest	84	25	50.19	201%
Elections	-	250	250.00	100%
Recycling	148	100	126.39	126%
TOTAL	**6,270**	**7,010**	**7,061.58**	101%
Surplus/Deficit	(133)	0	2,413.88	

Bank Reconciliation	
Balance at 01.04.2026	**11,141.67**
Less expenditure @ 08.10.2026	4,773.24
Plus Receipts @ 08.10.2026	8,355.28
	14,723.71
Bank Balance at 08.10.2026	
Current Account	6,184.53
Savings Account	9,217.08
	15,401.61
less outstanding payments	677.90
plus outstanding receipts	-
	14,723.71
including:	
S106 - Play Area	148.56
Village Hut Reserves	2,088.84
Village Hut Toilet	2,119.00
Highway Reserves	2,247.25
General Reserve	**8,120.06**

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